



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

FEB 16 2001

Mr. James H. Davis, Ph.D., Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

FEB 26 2001

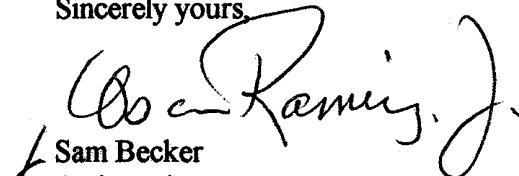
Dear Mr. Davis:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the document *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Stream Bottom Deposits in Rayado Creek and Metals (Chronic Aluminum) in the Cimarron River"* and is pleased to approve the Rayado Creek TMDL for stream bottom deposits and the Cimarron River dissolved aluminum TMDL as updates to work element six of the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan. Please note that implementation plans are not required by current regulations and neither the existence nor the adequacy of any implementation plans contained within this submission were a factor in EPA's decision to approve or disapprove the TMDLs.

EPA received the final TMDLs on December 20, 2000, accompanied by your letter dated December 12, 2000. We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing these TMDLs.

Based on our review, detailed in the enclosed document, we conclude that the TMDLs listed above meet the requirements found in Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me or Willie Lane of my staff at (214) 665-8460.

Sincerely yours,


Sam Becker
Acting Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure